



What's New in the City

City of Natchitoches

Turn on the Holidays November 22

The City of Natchitoches will Turn on the Holidays on Saturday, November 22! Turn on the Holidays is a Louisiana Main to Main and Natchitoches Tri-Centennial event that officially marks the beginning of the Natchitoches Christmas Festival season. The event will feature live musical performances, amusements, food, lights and fireworks. Admission is free and open to the public.

Turn on the Holidays, the official start to 45 nights of Christmas lights, is an entire day of family entertainment in downtown Natchitoches. The event kicks off the Natchitoches Christmas season as the city prepares for the 88th Annual Natchitoches Christmas Festival taking place on Saturday, December 6, 2014.

Amusement and food vendors for Turn on the Holidays will open at 10:00 a.m. All vendors will require tickets. Tickets may be

purchased at automated ticket dispensers located along the downtown riverbank.

The entertainment schedule for Turn on the Holidays begins at 11:00 a.m. with a performance by the Hallelujah Chorus and Ukulele Band from Glenview Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. The group consists primarily of senior adults and is led by Glenview's Senior Pastor, Dennis Baw. The band includes ukulele instrumentalists and singers that perform a variety of hymns, praise choruses and folk tunes.

At 12:00 p.m. children of all ages are invited to attend the Tri-Centennial Birthday Bash, a kid-friendly event to wrap up the Natchitoches Tri-Centennial Celebration. The bash will feature a magic show, stilt walkers, balloon twisters, hula hoopers, and more!

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Battle of Natchitoches Civil War Reenactment Held November 1 & 2

The streets of downtown Natchitoches were filled with Confederate and Union Soldiers engaged in an authentic reenactment on November 1st. The Battle of Natchitoches will continue through November 2nd as



part of the Natchitoches Tri-Centennial Celebration. This is the first event of its kind to honor the history of the Civil War, including an actual battle in downtown Natchitoches, 150 years ago.

The City of Natchitoches

welcomed visitors to observe skirmishes on Front Street and the Church Street Bridge. Troops were camped

on the downtown riverbank with authentic and exact replicas of encampments, weapons, and uniforms.

Battles began Saturday afternoon with skirmishes on Front Street and at Kaffie Fredericks, gentlemen pistol duels, and military trials.

The 12th Louisiana String Band performed a concert on the riverbank stage.

The general public is

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Did you know?

- Christmas Festival Posters are on sale for \$35 and can be purchased from the Office of Community Development.
- The Cane River Green Market will be open November 8 & 15 for the Fall Season.
- NSU's Creole Heritage Center will host the 2014 Creole Heritage Celebration November 6—7, celebrating 300 years of cultural heritage through "Sounds of Music."
- Christmas Festival is December 6. Tickets will be required for all vendors during the Christmas Festival Season. Tickets can be purchased at automated ticket machines, admission booths, and select stores. For complete schedule and information on the Christmas Festival, visit www.NatchitochesChristmas.com.

Turn on the Holidays (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Live musical performances continue at 3:30 p.m. with The Matthew Davidson Band, a high-energy, upbeat rock and blues band from Shreveport. Led by award-winning guitarist/vocalist Matthew Davidson, the band has performed at countless shows in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi including New Orleans JazzFest, Dallas House of Blues, Louisiana Seafood Festival, and Natchitoches' own Celebration on the Cane.

At 4:00 p.m., the Natchitoches Historic District Business Association will host a Holiday Open House. Visitors will have an opportunity to preview the latest holiday merchandise and trends at shops along Front Street as select shops extend hours to 8:00 p.m.

Headline performer, Amanda Shaw, will take the stage at 5:30 p.m. Amanda Shaw is an American Cajun fiddler, singer and actress from Covington, Louisiana. She has been touring nationally and internationally since the age of eight, and was named the Emerging Cultural Leader by the State of Louisiana in 2009. Amanda has also appeared in several Disney films.

The highlight of the evening will be the official turning on of hundreds of thousands of Christmas lights that will illuminate the Natchitoches Historic District throughout the Christmas season. A lighting ceremony will be held at 6:45 p.m. followed by a spectacular fireworks show over Cane River Lake at 7:00 p.m.

An encore performance by Amanda Shaw will be held immediately following the fireworks display.

Admission to Turn on the Holidays is free and open to the public.

Turn on the Holidays is sponsored by grants from the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, the Natchitoches Tri-Centennial Celebration, and the Office of the



Lt. Governor, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

For more information on Turn on the Holidays, please call the Natchitoches Main Street office at (318) 352-2746 or visit www.downtownnatchitoches.com. For more information on the Natchitoches Christmas Festival and Christmas Season, visit www.NatchitochesChristmas.com.

Turn on the Holidays is a Louisiana Main-to-Main event. Louisiana Main-to-Main: A Cultural Road Show is designed to showcase the Louisiana Main Street Program and foster economic development for the Louisiana Main Street communities. Throughout the month of November, Main Street communities across the state will host various events and activities that promote cultural tourism. Louisiana Main to Main is

a program of Louisiana Main Street and is sponsored by a grant from the Office of the Lt. Governor, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. For more information on Main to Main events, visit www.louisianamaintomain.org.

Reenactment (cont.)

invited to attend a period dance at the riverbank stage at 7:00 p.m. Saturday evening.

On Sunday, the reenactment will continue at 12:00 p.m. with a blessing of the battalion at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church, an event that actually took place during the Civil War, 150 years ago. The original speech that was given during the Civil War will be used to bless the troops by the clergy. Reenactors will parade and battle again at 1:30 p.m. with visitors observing the battle on the streets of downtown Natchitoches.

For more information on other Tri-Centennial events, please visit www.natchitoches300.com.

Can Your Fine at Library

The Natchitoches Parish Library is offering its patrons an alternative to paying fines during the month of November.

Starting on November 1, the Natchitoches Parish Library will begin its annual "Can Your Fines" program. During the "Can Your Fine" program, any patron who donates a canned food item will receive a \$2 reduction to their account for any late fees or fines per one canned food item they donate. There is no limit to the number of items that a patron can donate, but donations must be canned food items only. Expired canned items will not be accepted.

For more information, please contact Amy Walmsley, community outreach coordinator, at (318) 357-3280.

Annual Phone Book Recycling Contest Underway

Fifth grade students in Natchitoches Parish are learning the importance of recycling by participating in the Annual Phone Book Recycling Contest, sponsored by the City of Natchitoches, Keep Natchitoches Beautiful, Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office and CP-Tel.

Parish fifth graders are asked to collect as many phone books as possible and return them to their classroom. Keep Natchitoches Beautiful will pick up collected phone books to be recycled each Friday through November 14. The city school and parish school that collect

the most phone books will receive a pizza party, cash award and prizes.



The public is asked to support local schools by assisting students in the collection of used phone books. Phone books can be dropped off in the principal's office at any elementary school in Nat-

chitoches Parish or to the City of Natchitoches' Main Street Office located at 781 Front Street.

For more information about the recycling contest, please call Keep Natchitoches Beautiful at (318) 352-2746.

Veteran's Day Car & Bike Show November 8

Northwestern State University's Department of Military Science will present a Veteran's Day Car and Bike Show to benefit the Natchitoches Parish Veterans and Memorial Park. The event will feature domestic cars and trucks, SUVs, imports, muscle cars, choppers, cruisers, sports bikes and more and will be held on the riverfront in downtown Natchitoches Saturday, November 8.

Check-in will be from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and the show will run until 4:00 p.m. Registration to show a vehicle is \$15 in advance and \$25 the day of the event. For more information or to register contact Elisa Smith at (318) 357-5157 or email parkere@nsula.edu.

Cane River Creole NHP Celebrates 20 Years

On November 2, 1994 Public Law 103-449 formally established Cane River Creole National Historical Park. The park preserves and protects Oakland Plantation and the Magnolia Plantation outbuildings. Both sites are wonderful places to experience 200 years of plantation life. The park's stories cover a variety of themes including architecture, religion, agriculture, the Creole culture, and the African American experience. For the past 20 years park staff have been sharing these stories with visitors from around the world.

In celebration of the park's birthday, Cane River Creole NHP will be hosting some neat November events. On November 5, the park will be hosting a naturalization ceremony at the Oakland Plantation entrance pavilion. The public is invited to attend this event as they welcome twenty new United States citizens. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m.

On November 8, park staff will be hosting a bike ride from Oakland to historic St. Matthew's school. This program will begin at the Oakland entrance pavilion at 9:00 a.m. Prior to the tour the visitors will hear a presentation from former tenant farmer and St. Matthew's alum, Elvin Shields. Elvin will accompany the riders to St. Matthew where he will talk about his experience as a student at the school. This tour is part of the National Park Foundation funded Two Wheels to History bicycle program. Riders are encouraged to bring their own bicycle, but the park does have 12 bikes available at a first come, first serve basis. For more information about this program, contact Ranger Tim Van Cleave at (318) 356-8441.

Cane River Creole NHP is also pleased to announce the completion of exhibit production work at the Magnolia Planta-

tion Quarters Tenant Cabin.

A complex of brick cabins known as the Quarters Community was inhabited first by enslaved workers and later by tenant farmers and day laborers of Magnolia Plantation. Following the Civil War, newly freed men and women engaged in crop and labor contracts were allowed to live in the brick cabins of the Quarters Community. Families continued to live in the Quarters Community until the End of the Plantation Era of the late 1960s. Today, the National Park Service preserves a complex of eight surviving brick cabins and other historic structures at Magnolia Plantation as a unit of Cane River Creole NHP.

Recent exhibit production work resulted from extensive research to historically-furnish plantation structures as historic house museums. Park staff examined historic photographs and conducted oral history interviews with plantation descendants to determine the appearance of the cabins' interiors. The park successfully competed for NPS funding to acquire period pieces and reproductions of furnishings used by residents of the Quarters Community.

The Tenant Cabin is the first of two historically-furnished interior exhibits to be produced at the Magnolia Plantation Quarters Community. Another historically-furnished cabin exhibit will be produced to represent the Antebellum Period when the Quarters were inhabited by enslaved workers of Magnolia Plantation.

Cane River Creole NHP anticipates hosting a grand opening event to commemorate the Magnolia Plantation Quarters Community as part of the Christmas Downriver event on December 13.

City of Natchitoches 2014 Natchitoches Treasures Announced

Oldest Permanent
Settlement in the
Louisiana Purchase

P.O. Box 37
700 Second Street
Natchitoches, La. 71458

Phone: 318-352-2772

Fax: 318-357-3829

E-mail:

cityhall@natchitochesla.gov



Johnson, Edwina Lewis, Charles Roque, Dr. and Mrs. Randall Webb, and Carol Wells.
Thank you all for your service to the City of Natchitoches!

A recognition ceremony was held on Thursday, October 23, 2014 to honor this year's group of Natchitoches Treasures. The Natchitoches Treasures are an elite group of Natchitoches residents of retirement age who have made a lasting contribution to the community through their generosity, service, volunteerism and spirit.

The 2014 Natchitoches Treasures are Sharon Gahagan, Leon

Upcoming Holidays & Important Dates

Nov. 1–2: Battle of Natchitoches Civil War Reenactment, Downtown Riverbank and Front Street

Nov. 3: Natchitoches Historic District Commission Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Nov. 4: Planning & Zoning meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Nov. 8: Cane River Green Market Fall Market, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the downtown riverbank

Nov. 8: NSU ROTC Veteran's Day Car & Bike Show, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the downtown riverbank

Nov. 8: Tri-Centennial Second Saturday Events including:

- Native American Heritage Exhibit at the Lemee House, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- St. Augustine Parish Homecoming,

St. Augustine

Nov. 10: City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Nov. 11: Veteran's Day Holiday (city offices closed)

Nov. 15: Cane River Green Market Fall Market, 8:00 a.m. to noon on the downtown riverbank

Nov. 15: Reading on the River, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the downtown riverbank

Nov. 17: Airport Commission meeting, 5:00 p.m. at Natchitoches Regional Airport.

Nov. 17–18: LHSAA Cross Country State Championships, NSU

Nov. 18: Bike Natchitoches Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Nov. 20: Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Nov. 22: Turn on the Holidays, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the downtown riverbank; Fireworks at 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 24: City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Nov. 27–28: Thanksgiving Holidays (City offices closed)

Nov. 28: Holiday Kids Fest, 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the downtown riverbank. Admission free.

Nov. 29: Holiday Kids Fest, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the downtown riverbank. Fireworks at 7:00 p.m. Admission free.

